

Application No. 11/811,064
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-19, 23, 25-36 and 38-54 are pending. By this Reply, no claims have been added or canceled, and claims 1, 7, 16, 31, 34, 43, 48, 51, 52, and 54 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-5, 7-19, 23, 25-36 and 38-54 are currently at issue.

Examiner Interview Summary

Examiner Lugo conducted an Examiner Interview via telephone with Applicant's attorney Paul J. Nykaza on August 8, 2006. In the interview, amendments to the pending independent claims were discussed, particularly with regard to claim 1, in view of the Harvey reference (USPN 6,450,063). It is Applicant's understanding that an agreement was reached regarding specific amendments that would make the claims allowable. Applicant's attorney thanks Examiner Lugo for his time in conducting the Interview.

Claim Rejections

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-19, 23, 25-31, 36, 38-47, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,450,063 to Harvey et al. ("Harvey").

Also, in paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 32-35 and claims 48-53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Harvey in view of U.S. Patent No. D497,304 to Stoll et al. ("Stoll").

Applicant has amended the claims as agreed in the Interview, and respectfully traverses these rejections with respect to the claims as amended.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections Over Harvey

Independent claim 1 requires, among other elements, "a leaf spring connected to the handle, the leaf spring positioned between the sidewalls and having an entire length of the leaf spring confronting the bottom surface of the base and at least a part of the entire length of the leaf spring confronting the arm." Harvey fails to disclose a spring positioned in this manner. In the Interview, the Examiner indicated that an amendment to claim 1 to include this element

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would render claim 1 allowable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentably distinct from Harvey and respectfully requests notice of the same. Applicant further requests allowance of dependent claims 3-15, which depend from claim 1 and contain all the elements thereof.

Independent claim 16 requires, among other elements, "a leaf spring connected to the handle, the leaf spring positioned between the sidewalls and having an entire length of the leaf spring confronting the bottom surface of the base and at least a part of the entire length of the spring confronting the arm." For the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 16 is patentably distinct from Harvey and respectfully requests notice of the same. Applicant further requests allowance of dependent claims 17-19, 23, and 25-30, which depend from claim 16 and contain all the elements thereof.

Independent claim 31 requires, among other elements, "a leaf spring connected to the handle and confronting the arm, the leaf spring positioned between the sidewalls, the leaf spring having an entire length of the leaf spring confronting the bottom surface of the base and at least a part of the entire length of the spring confronting the arm." For the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 31 is patentably distinct from Harvey and respectfully requests notice of the same. Applicant further requests allowance of dependent claims 36 and 38-42, which depend from claim 31 and contain all the elements thereof.

Independent claim 43 requires, among other elements, "a leaf spring connected to the handle and confronting the arm, the leaf spring positioned between the sidewalls, the leaf spring having an entire length of the leaf spring confronting the bottom surface of the base and at least a part of the entire length of the spring confronting the arm." For the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 43 is patentably distinct from Harvey and respectfully requests notice of the same. Applicant further requests allowance of dependent claims 44-47, which depend from claim 43 and contain all the elements thereof.

Independent claim 54 requires, among other elements, "a leaf spring, wherein the leaf spring is positioned between the pair of sidewalls and received by the pair of slots, an entire length of the leaf spring generally confronting the bottom surface of the base of the handle proximate the first end of the handle, and at least a part of the entire length of the spring

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confronting the arm." For the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 54 is patentably distinct from Harvey and respectfully requests notice of the same.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections Over Harvey in View of Stoll

Claims 32-35, through dependency from Claim 31, require, among other elements, "a leaf spring connected to the handle and confronting the arm, the leaf spring positioned between the sidewalls, the leaf spring having an entire length of the leaf spring confronting the bottom surface of the base and at least a part of the entire length of the spring confronting the arm." The cited prior art fails to disclose a spring positioned in this matter. In the Interview, the Examiner indicated that amendments to the claims to include this element would render the claims allowable over the cited prior art. For the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 32-35 are patentable over the cited prior art and respectfully requests notice of the same.

Independent claim 48 requires, among other elements, "a leaf spring connected to the handle, the leaf spring positioned between the sidewalls and having an entire length of the leaf spring confronting the bottom surface of the base and at least a part of the entire length of the leaf spring confronting the arm." For the same reasons as stated above with respect to claims 32-35, Applicant submits that claim 48 is patentable over the cited prior art and respectfully requests notice of the same. Applicant further requests allowance of dependent claims 49-53, which depend from claim 48 and contain all the elements thereof.

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CONCLUSION

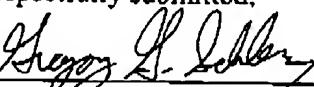
In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If it would expedite the progress of this application through the examination process, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 10, 2006

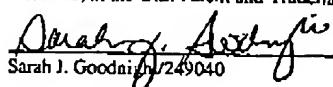
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this document and authorization to charge the deposit account is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner C. Lugo, Art Unit No. 3676, at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 10, 2006, to Fax No. 571-273-8300.


Sarah J. Goodin 7/249040